



The Southwester

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Serving the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Communities

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FREE

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VAT Discussed in Community Meeting with Mayor Gray

Mayor Vincent Gray met with Navy Yard and Capitol Hill communities on January 16th to discuss CSX's proposed expansion of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel.

The community requested and Mayor Gray agreed to a public meeting on Thursday, January 16th, at 6:30pm.

The meeting agenda included the following ongoing concerns from the community (among others):

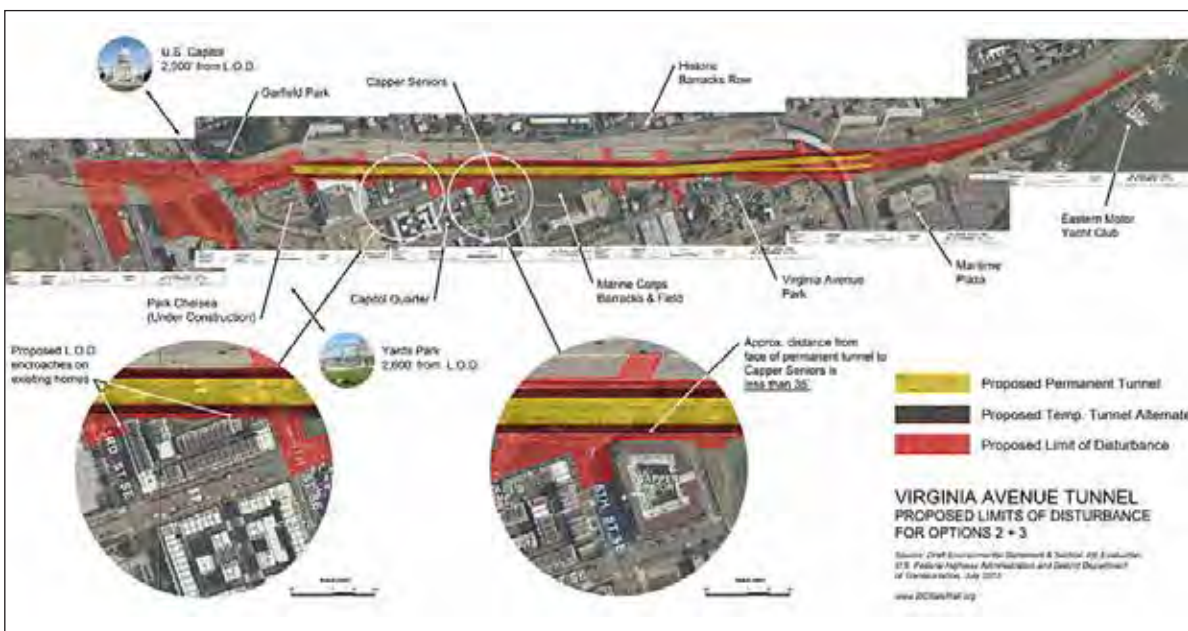
- Hazardous material transport and risk of derailment similar to Willard, Ohio and Casselton, North Dakota

- Presence of 8,000 sq. ft. of asbestos

- More than five-fold increase in permanent structural vibration to area buildings

- Potential for stalled neighborhood development during projected 4-6 year construction timeframe

- Disruptive traffic congestion and closure of area streets and highway ramps



Background On The Csx Virginia Ave Tunnel Project:

CSX has proposed to expand and shift the Virginia Avenue Tunnel beyond its current right of way and vastly increase the amount of freight (including hazardous materials, such as crude oil) shipped through the city. This proposal will negatively impact passenger and commuter rail operations in the DC metro area for generations to come and poses a direct threat to the health and safety of those who live and work nearby.

CSX's proposed plans for expanding the tunnel magnify the risk of a derailment like what happened right before Thanksgiving in Willard, Ohio and around the New Year in Casselton, North Dakota. During construction, which is expected to last approximately 4-6 years, CSX would be running larger and more frequent trains at increased speeds in an uncovered and open trench literally through an active construction site. CSX has not denied that its proposal increases the risk of

The District government is a key player in determining whether this project proceeds, and if so, under what conditions. Therefore, this meeting with Mayor Gray is crucial in the overall decision-making process and oversight

responsibilities.

The final agency decision could be made at any moment, so this could be your last opportunity to be heard.

Learn more at: www.DCSafeRail.org

See "Meeting," page 4

Felicia Coutts Announced as New CBCC Coordinator

By: Will Rich

The Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council (CBCC) is pleased to announce the hiring of Felicia Coutts as Coordinator.

Felicia is an 18-year resident of Southwest and has been working with the CBCC as Project Manager for the Southwest Playground Project, a playground that is in development for the 3rd and I St SW park adjacent to the Southwest branch library. She has been able to raise more than \$300,000 of public and private funds to help build the playground, which is currently scheduled to be completed in Spring 2014. Felicia also serves as President of the Capitol Park IV Condominium Association Board.

Felicia was a Paralegal Coordinator with Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, LLP in Washington, DC, where she managed assignments and coordinating staffing for a 500+ lawyer firm. In addition, she implemented "Best Practices" to promote paralegal efficiency and teamwork.

Prior to Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and

See "Couts," page 7

Port of Washington Yacht Club Change of Watch Celebration

By: Julia Cole

To say the boating community in SWDC is a close-knit one would be a significant understatement. Friends and neighbors dressed in their finest proved this on the evening of January 11th, 2014, when they gathered together to celebrate the Port of Washington Yacht Club's Change of Watch ceremony aboard the Spirit of Washington dinner cruise.



Debbie Christianson and Darryl Madden, the 2013 and 2014 Commodore



The evening's festivities included a cocktail hour and a buffet style dinner, followed by the ceremony proceedings, in which the previous year's 'bridge,' or leadership team, passed on the baton to the next year's, except in this case the proverbial baton is actually a golden boat hook.

The bridge is made up of positions such as Commodore, Vice Commodore, Treasurer, Secretary, Cruising Commodore, Social Commodore, and Safety Captain. The post of Commodore, which was undertaken by Debbie Christianson in 2013 as well as 2011, was passed on to Darryl Madden on the night of

the event. The group taking over these roles for 2014 is sure to have its fair share of challenges, particularly with the wharf development plunging full speed ahead.

The boating community has become tightly bonded due to supporting each other through disastrous house boat fires and the deaths of shared friends. At one point in the ceremony the memorial ringing of the ship's bell occurred, which is used as a moment of silence to remember former members who have passed away. During his acceptance speech, and inspired by the fact that

See "Yacht Club," page 3

A Letter from SWNA to DCOP Regarding SW SAP, and Their Response

Dear Mrs. Bird

The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly appreciates your efforts on behalf of the Office of Planning to develop a Small Area Plan for the heart of Southwest's residential community. We were grateful to be part of September 11's public kick-off meeting. After reviewing the residents' feedback, we have a number of comments. We suggest establishing a hierarchy of goals:

1. Complete previously approved improvements and plans
2. Determine how to conserve and promote Southwest's intrinsic assets
3. Identify how to sensitively accommodate new opportunities and developments

1) Complete previously approved plans and improvements

Before launching into another plan with a new set of goals and deliverables, we recommend first executing existing plans and projects. There are a number of plans such as the Maryland Avenue Small Area Plan that are complete or substantially so. The vast majority of the plans' recommendations haven't been initiated, much less completed.

➤ *Identify how we're going to implement these previously established goals and tasks such as improving north-south connections to/from Southwest.*

Currently there are several transformational capital projects that have been 1) vetted with the community, 2) approved by associated government agencies, and 3) have funding earmarked or otherwise identified. These priorities include:

- The SW Playground at Town Center East Park, adjacent to the library
- The SW Dog Park at Lansburgh Park
- The \$1 million "Play DC" project at Randall Recreation Center, which will bring much needed recreational amenities for all ages to Southwest
- The sand filtration system for the Southwest Duck Pond to enable it to function as designed
- SW Public Information Display System, which will provide a dynamic and accessible navigation and communications platform
- *We call on city agencies to implement these important community projects.*

2. Determine how to conserve and promote Southwest's intrinsic assets

Southwest has a rich artistic legacy, featuring greats such as Dizzy Gillespie and Al Jolson. This heritage continues with a multitude of live performances at local churches such as Westminster's Blues and Jazz nights or the more private art receptions held at individual residential complexes. The heritage is also manifested in larger events like SW Artsfest, Cherry Blossom Festival, and (e)merge. Indeed, Southwest has become a hub of performing and visual art institutions like Blind Whino, the planned Randall Middle School art center, and the reinvigorated Arena Stage, not to mention the Smithsonian museums.

➤ *Determine how to preserve and embrace this valued heritage, whether through an arts overlay zoning district, culture navigator program, or alternative tool.*

Southwest is one of, if not the city's most diverse quadrant. We value this diversity; race, age, income, religion. Unfortunately, some populations are particularly vulnerable to prevailing pressures, whether due to inadequate investment in the city's housing stock, limited career opportunities, communication gaps, or deteriorating physical or mental abilities.

➤ *Identify how to institutionalize career training opportunities, ensure an adequate amount of livable-wage jobs, preserve the number of affordable bedrooms, optimize public facilities to serve all Southwesterners, and inaugurate a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC).*

Southwest's built environment is recognized as among the country's finest. It's collection of mid-rise towers, town houses, and open spaces.

We have an array of parks and open spaces, but many aren't adequately accessible to Southwest residents, or disadvantaged subgroups thereof. We recommend determining how to improve maintenance standards and providing amenities like drinking fountains.

We recommend identifying how to conserve and promote these assets, whether it's by establishing an arts overlay district like Penn Quarter in Southwest, a Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, a commitment to preserving the number of affordable bedrooms, or recognizing Southwest as National Historic Landmark District.

Sincerely,
Kael Anderson
President
Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc.

DC Office of Planning Response:

Mr. Anderson:

Thank you for your feedback regarding the presentation of existing conditions for the Southwest Small Area Plan on December 11th. The project team responded to many questions and comments from the audience during and after the presentation - a majority of which were positive in nature. We are sorry to hear that you were disappointed by the presentation, and we would like to take this opportunity to address your concerns and reiterate what we hoped to communicate within the presentation.

We have heard repeatedly from the community that residents in Southwest wish to understand why the neighborhood has little nearby restaurant and retail amenities, and answering that question was a major focal point of the presentation. As with all small area plan processes, OP undertakes a market analysis to better understand current and future opportunities for a neighborhood. Arriving at market-based recommendations helps to ensure the greatest potential for implementation through actionable solutions.

During the presentation we listed nine conditions that retailers look for when locating to a new site: population density; high area spending power; large daytime traffic; a destination location that attracts non-residents; strong transportation access; a positive retail image, or "buzz;" a good competitive landscape; strong enough sales to support development costs; and retail-ready building infrastructure. When we spoke about

See "Letter" page 4



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YACHT CLUB

From p. 1

his friends and neighbors had donated about \$1,000 to him when his house boat caught fire last year, incoming Commodore Darryl Madden announced that he would be establishing the Dorothy Mae Fund, which will be used as an emergency fund in the event of catastrophic loss. The evening's events also included a raffle, which raised \$440 towards the fund.

Most of the guests present were members of the yacht club, but you don't have to own a boat or live on the water to join the revelry. Membership to the yacht club costs a mere \$100 for the year and is open to anyone.

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To contact the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc., please leave a message at 202-580-8188.

Science Education at Amidon-Bowen Comes to Life

By: Lucy Rojansky

For the past five years, students at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School have received a unique and inspirational addition to their science education thanks to the ReSET program.

ReSET, which brings retired scientists, engineers, and technicians into the classroom, exposes students to interactive projects and hands-on experiences that make science and math fun and interesting. This positive exposure, in turn, encourages students to pursue science and math electives throughout their middle and high school careers, and beyond.

"The ReSET program really sparks the 'scientist' inside my students," said Amidon-Bowen third grade teacher Dawn Gray. "The hands-on scientific investigations are engaging and the students are full of questions."

The ReSET volunteers spend six hours of classroom time each term with the students, building relationships and positive connections. They design experiments, activities, and field trips that allow students to experience the world around them through the lens of scientific inquiry.

ReSET came to Amidon-Bowen through its connection to the Environmental Protection Agency, which previously was headquartered in the Waterside Mall. The EPA's proximity to Amidon-Bowen resulted in a long history of EPA volunteers contributing at the school.

The volunteers' involvement extends beyond classroom instruction. Indeed, ReSET encourages its volunteers to share with students the experiences



and motivation that drew them into science and engineering fields, and to discuss the schooling such careers require, as well as the kinds of jobs that become available to them as a result of that education.

ReSET's John Meagher is currently leading his second program in Gray's classroom. He sends her vocabulary words relevant to the day's lesson ahead of time and she posts them on the board for students before he arrives.

"As a teacher, I appreciate how well organized the lessons and materials are. Every student has a job to do and no one ever feels left out," said Gray.

For his part, Meagher appreciates that his efforts with the students extend beyond his time with them.

"I really like working with Ms. Gray," said Meagher. "She is fully engaged while I work with the students on their science experiments, and is always coming up with captivating ways to help the children learn and remember. It makes a big difference when a teacher sends the message that science matters."



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MEETING

From p. 1

such a derailment, which would be particularly catastrophic if it resulted in an oil explosion and/or release of toxic chemicals.

In addition to ignoring the risk of derailment, CSX's proposal has not properly addressed how it would mitigate increased air pollution (including diesel fumes and the presence of

8,000 sq. ft. of asbestos), traffic and parking for area commuters, noise pollution, and structural vibrations (among other negative impacts).

Contact elected officials and demand our community's voice be heard before approving the VAT: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton: 202-225-8050 or nortonschedule@mail.house.gov; or DC Mayor Vincent Gray: 202-727-6300 or eom@dc.gov.

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Skating has been popular at Canal Park Rink at 2nd St. and M St. SE. Here are five residents of Greenleaf Annex in skates on a SW Assembly YATF field trip.

SWNA Youth Go on Field Trips

December and January have seen Southwest youth on field trips to the National Christmas Tree near the White House, skating at Canal Park, and to Gaylord at National Harbor in Maryland.

The trips, all sponsored by the Assembly's Youth Activities Task Force, have been funded by contributions largely from generous residents of Southwest sending tax-deductible donations to the Assembly's PO Box 70131, Washington, DC, 20024.



King Greenleaf Recreation Center's program "Young Ladies on the Rise" enjoyed an afternoon at the ICE show at Gaylord at National Harbor, Maryland. They were given large puffy parka jackets loaned by Gaylord to keep warm at the show.



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Recruiting for Research on language and mental health

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LETTER

From p. 2

limited "buzz," we were referring to the perception that exists outside of this neighborhood - most retailers and shoppers in DC do not think of the Southwest planning area as an existing retail destination. This perception is an obstacle that may require more marketing and branding by brokers, developers, landlords, and the greater Southwest community to highlight the benefits and attractiveness of this community.

The team's intent was positive in nature and aimed at addressing the concerns the community has identified and the outcomes that the community seeks. It is important for everyone to have a sense of how retail decision-makers consider opportunities to develop more local restaurants and retail so that corresponding plan recommendations can be better tailored to achieve the desired community outcomes when they are developed later in the planning process.

Recommendations and policies were not presented at the December 11th meeting because we were still in the early stage of the planning process at that juncture. The focus of the December 11th meeting was on listening to the community, collecting information, and analyzing data from a multitude of resources and groups. The plan is being developed through a community-based process that considers community participation paramount. A synthesis and categorization of 800+ comments from the kick-off meeting is available for download from our plan website (www.swneighborhoodplan.org) and at the Southwest Library. Collecting

that input is part of OP's commitment to participatory engagement. Those comments and others received through many other channels including the interactive Engage Southwest platform, focus groups, and the upcoming Community Workshop will ultimately inform the development of plan goals and recommendations in the coming weeks.

The OP team will continue to reach out to the community in the broadest way possible. We are committed to creating a Neighborhood Plan that reflects the vision of the diverse community in Southwest. In addition to the community workshop on January 25th, which will consist of in-depth break-out sessions covering Design/Development, Historic Preservation, Sustainability, and Parks/Open Space, there will be at least two additional community-wide meetings with a focus on discussing draft recommendations and policies which we believe will be positive and affirming of the unique Southwest Community.

Thank you again for asking these important questions. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and other leaders from SWNA to meet with our Director, Harriet Tregoning, to further discuss your feedback on the planning process and your aspirations for the future of Southwest. I will be in touch shortly to schedule this meeting.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 487-1323.

Sincerely
Melissa Bird
Office of Planning
Project Manager



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AARP SW Waterfront Chapter #4751 News

By: Elaine Graves

Andy Litsky, AARP-DC Executive Council member and Chair, ANC 6D Commission, installed the 2014 officers and committee chairs of the AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter #4751 at its first meeting of the year on January 15th. He administered the oath of office to (L to R) Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, president; Evelyn B. Dorsey, vice president; Julia Lindsay, assistant secretary/treasurer; Inez Davis, membership; Ethel Davis, amenities; Elaine Graves, public relations; Wanda Peace, hospitality; and Joan King, hospitality. Not pictured: Paul Leddy, secretary/treasurer; Dorothy Bryan, legislative; and Kathleen Byrd, hospitality.

The AARP Southwest Waterfront Chapter #4751 will hold a noon luncheon meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

PROGRAM: The Preservation of the dynamic history, culture and legacy of Prince George's County African Americans captured through the historical programs and exhibits of the Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGCAAMCC).

SPEAKERS: Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, Executive Director, and staff members of the Prince George's County African American Museum and Cultural Center. The program coincides with the 2014 National Black History Theme: Civil Rights in America.

Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Home's community room, 1311 Delaware Ave SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901.

COST: \$5.00 for lunch.

New Clothing Bin in Southwest to Benefit People in Need

By: Elaine Graves

Julian Tait, a parishioner at Southwest's St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW, stands next to the newly installed clothing donations bin on St. Augustine's property, across from the church's sign. Tait is the church's representative to Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and he also sits on its board of directors.

The MetroAid program has partnered with the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington to maintain a clothing bin for donations of gently used clothing, shoes, purses, bags, belts, stuffed toys, and linens. MetroAid will sell the clothes with part of the proceeds going to Samaritan Ministry, which supports people who are homeless, unemployed, or otherwise in need, and helps them organize their lives to become employed, find housing, and obtain necessary education. Some of the donated clothes and accessories will be delivered to Samaritan Ministry's clothing closets. To obtain a tax receipt/in-kind



donation form for clothing deposited into Samaritan Ministry donation bins, visit www.samaritanministry.org or contact the main office at 202-722-2280

FEBRUARY

SAT 1 @ 10:30 A.M. Family Story Time. Stories, songs, and activities to celebrate the season. SW Neighborhood Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

SAT 1 @ 4-5:30 P.M. Experience Yoga Nidra: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a very deep, conscious relaxation with the opportunity to set your intention. No experience in Yoga or meditation necessary. A donation of \$10 is suggested. For more information call 202-746-6654 or email wilsonpj108@verizon.net

SUN 2 @ 2 P.M. ASL (American Sign Language) Story Time. Deaf services librarian Janice Rosen will sign “The Snowy Day” by Ezra Jack Keats, followed by a craft project. ASL/Voice interpreters and therapy dogs from PAL (People Animals Love) will also be present. For children of all ages and their families. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 2 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church, Religious Movie Seminar “Ninth Street” with Martin Sheen, Isaac Hayes, Don Washington and Kevin Willmott (1999) (95 mins) Some people bring food to share but there is no obligation. FREE. Everyone is welcome. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863

MON 3 @ 7-8:30 P.M. PAWS of Southwest. The monthly meeting is open to the public in the downstairs community room of in the SW Neighborhood Library. Also find PAWS of Southwest on Facebook.

WED 5 @ 7 P.M. St. Augustine’s Art & Spirit Coffeehouse. “Love Songs from the Great American Song Book.” Soprano and Pianist Joyce Bouvier will play and sing love songs in the spirit of St. Valentine’s Day. Coffee and desserts, followed by audience Q&A. Free, donations accepted. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. 202-554-3222, www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

THURS 6 @ 8-9:30 A.M. Councilmember Tommy Wells Southwest Community Office Hours at Channel Inn on the Waterfront located at 650

Community Calendar

View our on-line calendar at www.swdc.org/calendar.

Submit Calendar events to calendar@thesouthwester.com by the 15th of the month preceding the month it is scheduled.

Water St SW.

FRI 7 @ 6:30 P.M. potluck, **7 P.M.** games. St. Augustine’s Game Night. Bring a potluck dish to share. Board and card games provided, but feel free to bring your own games too. All ages welcome. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW, 202-554-3222, www.staugustinesdc.org or rector@staugustinesdc.org

SUN 9 @ 11 A.M. Jazz Worship and Art for Change Panel. Westminster will celebrate its famous jazz program followed by a lunch and panel discussion on how the arts can create change in individuals and communities. All welcome. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. www.westminsterdc.org

SUN 9 @ 2 P.M. Sunday Matinee Movie, a family friendly feature. Call 202-724-4752 for details. SW Neighborhood Library.

SUN 9 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, “Change of Habit” starring Elvis Presley, Mary Tyler Moore and Ed Asner (1969.) Also showing the trailer. FREE. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863.

MON 10 @ 7-10 P.M. ANC6D Monthly Business Meeting, 1100 4th St SW, DCRA Hearing Room on 2nd floor.

SUN 16 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church, Religious Movie Seminar “I Married an Angel” with Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddie (1942) (85 mins) FREE. Everyone is welcome. Some people bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863.

WED 19 @ 12 Noon Luncheon Meeting. The South-

west Waterfront AARP #4751 chapter. The Preservation of the dynamic history, culture and legacy of Prince George’s County African Americans captured through the historical programs and exhibits of the PG County African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGCAAMCC). Speakers are Dr. Jacqueline F. Brown, Executive Director and staff members of the PGAAMCC. The program coincides with the 2014 National Black History Theme: Civil Rights in America. Current AARP members and new prospective members are welcome. River Park Mutual Homes’ community room, 1311 Delaware Ave SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Betty Jean Tolbert Jones, bettyjeantolbertjones@yahoo.com or 202-554-0901. Costs: \$5.00 for lunch.

SAT 22 @ 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Neighborhood Library. You are welcome to join us for a discussion of “The Fire Next Time” by James Baldwin. Copies available for checkout at the library.

SUN 23 @ 11 A.M. St. Augustine’s Grounds for Discussion. Rev. Linda Kaufman, a long-time advocate for the poor and homeless in DC, will discuss “A Working Movement to End Poverty and Homelessness in America.” Free. Includes refreshments and Q&A. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. 202-554-3222 or rector@staugustinesdc.org.

SUN 23 @ 6:30 P.M. St. Dominic Church Religious Movie Seminar, 630 E St SW. “Wings of Desire (Der Himmel uber Berlin)” starring Bruno Ganz, Otto Sander and Peter Falk (1987) (128 mins). FREE. Everyone is welcome. Feel free to bring food to share but there is no obligation. St. Dominic Church, 630 E St SW, 202-554-7863.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

ADULTS/SENIORS BINGO BRUNCH, 1-3 P.M., Mondays and Thursdays, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Streets SW. FREE

BABY AND TODDLER STORY TIME, 10:30 A.M., Tuesdays Feb 4th, 11th, and 25th. Songs, fingerplays, rhymes, and stories to help in the development of literacy skills. Ages: Birth to 2 years of age and caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6-9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 A.M. St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M St SW. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join our loving and lively Sunday School where they are introduced to a loving God who welcomes and cares for all. Through biblical stories, art, music and holy play, our children are nurtured in their natural spirituality to grow as the “littlest members” of a community of faith.

COMPUTER CLASSES, Tuesdays 10-12 Noon, SW Neighborhood Library, 724-4752.

TUES 4 Personal Computer basics

TUES 11 Internet Basics

TUES 18 DC Public Library website

TUES 25 Email Basics

MARCH 4 Introduction to Microsoft Word

CREATE CLUB, TUESDAYS, 4:30-5:30 P.M. For Ages 5-12. Each week features a different creative activity. Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a caregiver. SW Neighborhood Library.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12-2 P.M., Jitterbug, Lindy Hop. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW, Community room off Wesley Place SW.

HAND DANCING CLASSES, SATURDAYS, 12:45-3:45 P.M., King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW. 645-7454.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, FRIDAYS, 6-9 P.M. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW. Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

JOB SEEKERS PROGRAM, WEDNESDAYS, 1-7:00 P.M. By Appointment Only. Help with resumes, cover letters, applications and other aspects of the job search process. SW Neighborhood Library. Call 724-4298 or stop by to set up an appointment Feb 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, 6:30-7:30 P.M., every first and third Monday, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW.

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS 10:30 A.M., every 1st, & 3rd Saturday, SW Neighborhood Library. Feel free to visit us and to see our communications and leadership program at work.

NARFE-THE NATIONAL Active and Retired Federal Employees, 1:30-2:30 P.M., every fourth Thursday through May. SW Neighborhood Library, basement meeting room.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, 7-8:30 P.M., every third Thursday, Location announced at previous meeting.

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting, 10-11 A.M., every last Saturday, Senior Citizen Community Room 900 5th St SE.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, 10:30 A.M. Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Stories, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays to promote early literacy skills. A craft activity follows. Ages: 2-5 and parents/caregivers.

PAJAMA STORYTIME, 7 P.M. Stories, and picture books fun and learning before bedtime. For children of all ages and their caregivers. SW Neighborhood Library.

SEATED YOGA, 11:00-Noon on Mondays, and Wednesdays 4-5 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pamela Wilson guides a gentle series of movements designed to free the joints and ease the mind. This is part of Westminster’s Wellness program.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, 8:30 P.M., Mondays, St. Augustine’s Church, 600 M St SW, (202) 554-3222.

SW FREEWAY, NA, 7-8 P.M., Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW.

SW LIBRARY, Saturday 1st - Friday 28th. In celebration of Valentine’s Day, stop by the library to check out a wrapped title. It may be a fiction or nonfiction title, but like the best blind dates, it should be fun.

TOT LOT Program, 10:30 A.M. Thursdays, Randall Community Center, South Capitol & Eye Streets SW. 554-6973. Activity time for toddlers, ages 18 mos. to 3 years and parents/caregivers. Movement and activities that develop gross motor skills that can enhance balance, coordination, socialization, strength, self-esteem and reinforce cognitive development in a safe, nurturing and fun environment.

WALK FOR WELLNESS Tuesdays and Fridays, while walking to music, **11-12 P.M.** in the gym of King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N St SW.

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 7-9 P.M., First and third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade, and sell stamps. Refreshments, auctions, and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 4th St SW. 202-863-0564

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St SW, **4 P.M.** Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). **5:30 P.M.** Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). **6:45 P.M.** Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). **7 P.M.** Narcotics Anonymous SW Freeway Meeting.




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'Mother Courage and Her Children' and More at Arena Stage

By: Sheila Wickouski

Bertolt Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children* has been called by some the greatest anti-war play ever. The astonishing work, written in a month in 1939 on the eve of Hitler's invasion of Poland, tells of a single mother determined to keep her family alive and her business afloat during the Thirty Years War that tore Europe apart in the early 17th century. Fusing politics and satire, this provocative work was the vehicle for Brecht's protest of the Nazi and Fascist powers tearing Europe apart once again as World War II began. Such a powerful play is ageless but it is getting a new look at Arena Stage, when under the direction of Molly Smith it will be staged for the first time ever in the round as a musical. Iconic stage and screen actress and Academy Award nominee Kathleen Turner returns to Arena, making her professional singing debut as the tough-as-nails matriarch Mother Courage. The production incorporates more than 10 pieces of original music composed in a rollicking, gypsy-punk style and performed by cast members doubling as musicians. How can there be music and humor in a play with such gloomy themes, one written on the eve of a war which Wikipedia estimates might possibly have resulted in 70 million deaths? Best to put pre-conceived doubts aside, and expect the unexpected at Arena's latest offering of this classic that explores the many effects of unending warfare on one family trying to survive.

WHEN: January 31-March 9, 2014

SOUTHWEST NIGHT: Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.

WANT TO KNOW MORE: To check out the video of Turner discussing this production, visit arenastage.org/shows-tickets/the-season/productions/mother-courage-and-her-children/media/.



Kathleen Turner as Mother Courage in *Mother Courage and Her Children* at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater January 31-March 9, 2014. Photo by Tony Powell.

Mother Courage and Her Children Special Events:

WHAT: The Art of War, a look at artists' reactions to war over the years.

WHEN: Sunday, February 23, following the 6:00 p.m. performance

WHAT: Piano Bar

WHEN: Wednesday, February 26 following the 7:30 p.m. performance

WHAT: Post-Show Discussions with Artists and Staff

WHEN: February 11, 12 & 19 following the noon matinee; February 20 following the 8:00 p.m. performance, and February 25 following the 7:30 p.m. performance.

All Performances At Kogod Cradle at Arena Stage:

WHAT: Workshop performance of new work by Samuel D. Hunter

WHEN: February 6-9, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$10

WHAT: Six members of the inaugural Playwrights' group will share excerpts from each of their plays and discuss their writing process during the program.

WHEN: March 6-9, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

COST: Tickets are \$10

INFORMATION: arenastage.org/artistic-development/new-play-institute/playwrights-arena/.

WHAT: Kogod Cradle Series Special Presentation Loveland Writer/performer Ann Randolph in the role of Frannie Potts, an irreverent oddball trapped on a plane as she travels from California to Ohio for her mother's funeral.

See "Arena Stage," page 8



(clockwise from top left) Nicholas Rodriguez as Eilif, Kathleen Turner as Mother Courage, Nehal Joshi as Swiss Cheese, and Erin Weaver as Katrin in *Mother Courage and Her Children* at Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater January 31-March 9, 2014. Photo by Tony Powell.

COUTS

From p. 1

Door, LLP, Felicia was a Paralegal Coordinator at Powell, Goldstein, Frazier & Murphy, LLP, a 100+ lawyer firm in Washington, DC. She assisted with hiring recommendations and training programs for the staff, as well as researched legislative and charitable tax issues.

Felicia's experience will be useful in her role as Coordinator, which will enhance the CBCC Board of Directors' effectiveness by conducting research and analysis, as well as

keeping abreast of issues pertaining to housing development, job and training opportunities, and education reform affecting the Near SE/SW community.

■ *About the CBCC: The Near SE/SW Community Benefits Coordinating Council is a neighborhood-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to sustain neighborhood and housing diversity, improve the quality of life of residents, engage the community and represent it in negotiating community benefits agreements with developers in the rapidly developing Near Southeast and Southwest area of Washington, DC.*

Getting Ready for Spring at the SW Community Garden

By: Coy McKinney

Six months in, and the SW Community Garden in Lansburgh Park has already experienced nearly all the elements of a DC fall and winter, and even a polar vortex! Through it all, the plants have continued to grow.

Since the garden's opening on July 31st, 2013, a variety of herbs and vegetables have been grown, such as basil, swiss chard, and tomatoes. The growing continued throughout the end of 2013 as arugula, collard greens, kale, lettuce, and perennial herbs, like rosemary and thyme, were able to stay alive as well.

Thanks to our gardening efforts, we've been able to harvest a little over 10 pounds of produce, which has been distributed to volunteers and members of the community. We hope to continue this trend, and to grow and share even more this year.

In preparation for the upcoming growing season, we want to know what you would like

to see growing in the garden. For us, being a true community garden means appealing to the taste buds of the neighborhood. You can let us know your suggestions by filling out a survey on our website (swgardens.org), or voting at the collection box we have set up at the garden (located at 1098 Delaware Ave SW). We'll be taking suggestions until March 1st.

We will then give you the chance to plant some of the chosen vegetables during the garden's spring kick-off event on Saturday, March 22nd. There, we will have workshops, gardening activities, some snacks, music, and we will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the garden.

We hope to see you there!

The SW Community Garden is a 34-plot garden, composed of an individual and communal section, located in Lansburgh Park. For more info, visit the SW Garden website at swgardens.org, or email swgardensdc@gmail.com.

God Allows U-Turns!

By Rev. Ida Moss, Senior Pastor • www.MyGreaterWorks.org



Have you ever taken a wrong turn while driving and really messed things up? The best solution is often to make a U-Turn and start over. In Jeremiah 18, we find the story of a potter attempting to shape clay into a beautiful vessel. Jeremiah noticed that when the vessel turned out badly, the potter did not simply discard the clay. Instead, he took that same old clay, started over, and made it into another more perfect vessel. God then told Jeremiah, "I can do the same thing with you!" It is never too late to ask God to help you make a U-Turn! You CAN out-live your past mistakes!

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Sunday, Feb. 23 – 11:00 a.m.

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and Beauty ...
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to community
need."



Photo courtesy of Will Rich

Private Drive Lane for Sky House Open

The private drive lane that runs in front of Safeway at Waterfront Station officially opened on Tuesday, January 14th. The roadway serves Sky House East, which opened for leasing earlier this month. It is a one-way road that starts on M Street, runs north to the Sky House East garage entrance, then curves west past Safeway and meets 4th Street. On the other side of 4th Street, the roadway continues westbound to Sky House West and then loops south back to M Street. The western stretch of the road will remain closed until the other apartment tower is complete later this year. Caution signs will be put up near the metro entrance to alert pedestrians to the opening of the roadway.

ARENA STAGE

From p. 7

WHEN: March 18-April 13, 2014 Sunday, Tuesday & Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

COST: Tickets start at \$25

WHAT: *The Summit*, an in-depth exploration of DC Theater in three acts featuring 17 distinguished actors, directors, playwrights, and artistic directors discussing their work. Peter Marks, the Washington Post theater critic, will host the events.

WHEN: February 17, March 24 and April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

COST: Free but call Arena for reservations

December Real Estate Update

By Jason Martin

Each month we try to break down these stats for you, but this month we are going to do something a little different. If you have any questions in regards to this month's stats, or any previous month's, just shoot me an email and we will get your question answered jason@jasonmartingroup.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

	Dec. 2013	Dec. 2012	%Change
Sold Dollar Volume	\$6,355,000	\$3,770,000	68.57%
Avg Sold Price	\$334,474	\$314,167	6.46%
Median Sold Price	\$282,000	\$331,000	-14.80%
Units Sold	19	12	58.33%
Avg Days on Market	33	43	-23.26
Avg List Price for Solds	\$336,088	\$319,342	5.24%
Avg SP to OLP Ratio	97.0%	97.2%	-0.17%

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